

CROATIA'S AUTHORITIES RESPOND TO PARTY TOURISM



Cities across Croatia can limit nighttime alcohol sales after new rules took effect. Though once unchecked, tourist crowds now face tighter controls thanks to recent legislation. Every lawmaker who attended supported the change without objection. Croatia's authorities hold power under the update to block such sales entirely if needed.

Public spaces may grow quieter as officials work to reduce disorder linked to heavy visitation. Quality of daily living for inhabitants stands to rise where disruptions often flare. **Damage to historic sites and natural sites could slow when foot traffic calms.** Nightlife restrictions emerge not as punishment but as a balance. Some places welcome millions yearly, straining infrastructure along the coast. Authority shifts toward towns let responses fit unique community needs. Order returns gradually when noise fades past dark hours.

Starting at nine each night, town authorities now hold the power to block alcohol sales in stores, kiosks, fuel stations - any spot that sells like a shop - until six the next morning. Places where people sit down to eat or drink, though, stay untouched by these hours, meaning travelers still find cocktails available after dark in approved spots.

Popular Destinations Move Quickly

Now showing signs of change, several main seaside destinations along the Adriatic coast say they'll apply fresh authority soon. Nighttime trade curbs after 9 p.m., lasting until 6 a.m., sit at the core of Split's upcoming shift. Meanwhile, Hvar Island and Zadar move toward mirroring such rules under their own pace. From inland, Zagreb watches closely - decisions there still forming behind closed doors.

Summer brings waves of younger visitors to these spots, fueling growth while quietly straining community relations. Though income rises, so do frustrations among residents who face seasonal pressures year after year.

Responding to Noise, Vandalism, and Excesses

Nowhere has the issue been more visible than in quiet town centers waking up to broken glass each morning. Because of rising tensions, officials moved to introduce new rules targeting late-night behavior. These changes follow years of frustration voiced by people who live where visitors party hardest. Where tourism thrives, peace often fades after dark. Some areas report clashes nearly every weekend during peak season. Since patterns show little improvement over time, Croatia's authorities decided stronger measures were needed. What once seemed occasional now feels routine in many seaside spots.

Tourism Minister Tonči Glavina emphasized the need for balance: "Tourism and the quality of life of the population must be in harmony. Cities and regions should not be oriented exclusively toward the needs of tourism."

What drives officials is a push to let towns adapt rules locally instead of forcing uniform standards

across every region. Their thinking rests on allowing customized responses where needs differ widely from place to place.

Not a Ban on Drinking

Even though officials highlight the limited scope, some might assume otherwise. At all times, travelers may drink and buy alcohol inside eateries and drinking spots. Only nighttime shop sales face limits, not hospitality venues. Each municipality gets to decide whether to enforce these rules locally.

Stronger Protection for Minors

Now, protections for younger individuals get a boost through the update. Shops that sell goods directly to the public must follow tougher rules when checking how old buyers are. Saying no to underage alcohol purchases becomes a required step under the new terms. Proof of age might be needed every time, turning occasional checks into standard practice.

Sustainable Tourism Remains a Priority

Year after year, **Croatia sees huge numbers of travelers drawn by beautiful shores, scattered islands, and towns rich in history.** Despite claims otherwise, officials maintain these updated regulations aim to ease pressure on residents while guiding growth that lasts.

Local decision-making may help keep Croatian spots attractive without sacrificing daily life for those living there. Only time will tell if limiting nighttime activity reduces peak-season strain, yet a growing number see value in handing power back to communities.

Date: 2026-06-15

Article link: <https://www.tourism-review.com/croatias-authorities-fighting-night-parties-news15509>